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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/785,000	02/16/2001	Alison Lee	YOR920000110US2	4058

7590 02/23/2006

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EXAMINER
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PHAM, HUNG Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2168

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/785,000

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

HUNG Q. PHAM

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

During an interview between examiner and applicants' representative, Michael Musella, on 02/07/06. Applicants' representative requests a second Final Action because the secondary reference in the Advisory Action 01/09/06 is considered as new reference.

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 07/11/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As argued by applicants at page 10, lines 2-6:

*(1) Claim 1, as amended, recites "generating a graphical representation of said at least one instance of said mapping data structure, said graphical representation depicting the two or more categories and the subcategories such that the subcategories are graphically depicted within a corresponding category of the two or more categories," which is neither taught nor suggested by Minar.*

*(2) These elements are more clearly illustrated with reference to FIGs. 3A-3D of the present application, and more particularly to FIG. 3D, wherein the categories are illustrated as pie segments (see 1-4) and the ordered levels of specificity (i.e. the subcategories) are shown as rings within the categories. Thus, the multiple subcategories of ordered levels of levels of specificity within each category are illustrated within the corresponding category. These features are neither taught nor suggested by Minar.*

*(3) Claims 25-27 have been amended. Claim 25, as amended, includes the recitation "displaying the subcategories and the grouping of subcategories by level of specificity in a geometric pattern such that the subcategories are graphically depicted within a corresponding category of the two or more*

*categories;" Claim 26, as amended, includes the recitation "displaying the subcategories and the grouping of subcategories by level of specificity in a geometric pattern such that the subcategories are graphically depicted within a corresponding category of the two or more categories;" and Claim 27, as amended, includes the recitation "means for displaying the subcategories and the grouping of subcategories by level of specificity in a geometric pattern such that the subcategories are graphically depicted within a corresponding category of the two or more categories;" which are neither taught nor suggested by Minar. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) of Claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) of Claims 25-27 be withdrawn.*

*(4) Claims 2-24, it is submitted that they are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies on independent Claim 1.*

Examiner respectfully disagrees.

(1) Minar discloses the steps of *generating a graphical representation of said at least one instance of said mapping data structure, said graphical representation depicting the two or more categories and the subcategories such that the subcategories are graphically depicted within a corresponding category of the two or more categories.*

As disclosed in "Visualizing the Crowds at a Web Site" (herein referred to as "main reference"), the full dynamic visualization can be seen as a Java applet at <http://www.media.mit.edu/~nelson/research/crowdvis>. Via the link, two Web pages can be obtained (herein referred to as "secondary reference") to have a full illustration of the still image of the main reference. In the secondary reference, the full dynamics visualization at page 2 as *a graphical representation of said at least one instance of said mapping the hierarchical data structure* of MIT Web Server. The web pages of MIT site are organized into four topics: Software Agents, Synthetic Characters, Gesture and Narrative Language, and Epistemology and Learning. Each topic is placed in one quadrant of the

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display. There are four kinds of pages in each topic: page for the topic as a whole (shown in red), for a project (green), for a person (blue), or for a course (yellow). As seen, the full dynamics visualization *depicting the two or more categories*, i.e., Software Agents and Synthetic Characters, *and the subcategories*, i.e., page for the topic as a whole (shown in red), for a project (green), for a person (blue), or for a course (yellow), *such that the subcategories are graphically depicted within a corresponding category of the two or more categories*, i.e., page for the topic as a whole (shown in red), for a project (green), for a person (blue), and for a course (yellow) are represented within Software Agents.

(2) In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., *the categories are illustrated as pie segments (see 1-4) and the ordered levels of specificity (i.e. the subcategories) are shown as rings within the categories*) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

(3) As discussed above, the full dynamic visualization *displaying the subcategories and the grouping of subcategories by level of specificity in a geometric pattern*, e.g., four kinds of pages as *subcategories*: page for the topic as a whole (shown in red), for a project (green)... *are grouped at each quadrant under a topic as level of specificity in a geometric pattern*, and the purpose is to *graphically depict the subcategories within a corresponding category of the two or more*

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*categories*, i.e., page for the topic as a whole (shown in red), for a project (green), for a person (blue), and for a course (yellow) are represented within Software Agents.

(4) Claims 2-24 are unpatentable at least by virtue of their dependencies on independent Claim 1 as discussed above.

(5) During the Interview, applicants asserts the availability of the secondary reference is unknown because the difference between the suggested URL (<http://www.media.mit.edu/~nelson/research/crowdvis/>) in the main reference and the indicated URL (<http://alumni.media.mit.edu/~nelson/research/crowdvis/index.html> and <http://alumni.media.mit.edu/~nelson/research/crowdvis/WebVisApplet.html>) in the secondary reference.

Examiner respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

Firstly, the change in domain name (from <http://www.media.mit.edu> to <http://alumni.media.mit.edu>) does not constitute the secondary is not available because when the suggested <http://www.media.mit.edu/~nelson/research/crowdvis/> is entered, this URL directs the user to the index page that contains a link to the Java applet as disclosed in the main reference.

Secondly, as set forth in MPEP 2128:

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**Date of Availability**

Prior art disclosures on the Internet or on an on-line database are considered to be publicly available as of the date the item was publicly posted. If the publication does not include a publication date (or retrieval date), it cannot be relied upon as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) or (b), although it may be relied upon to provide evidence regarding the state of the art. Examiners may ask the Scientific and Technical Information Center to find the earliest date of publication. See MPEP § 901.06(a), paragraph IV. G.

As seen in the two pages of the secondary reference, the creation date is 12/13/1998 and 12/11/1998, and updated date is 03/09/1999 and 10/12/1999. Thus, 03/09/1999 and 10/12/1999 is considered as the publication date of the secondary reference.

In view of the above, the examiner contends that all limitations as recited in the claims have been addressed in this Action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

**Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Minar et al. [Visualizing the Crowds at a Web Site].**

Regarding claim 1, Minar teach *a method for navigating the Internet and for facilitating user socialization at web sites* (Abstract), *the method being utilized in a computer networking system having one or more central processing units, one or more memories, and one or more network connections* (World Wide Web as disclosed in the INTRODUCTION implies a computer networking system having one or more central processing units, one or more memories, and one or more network connections), the method comprising steps of:

*creating at least one instance of a mapping data structure for a web site, the data structure representing two or more categories, each of the categories divided into subcategories of ordered levels of specificity, each of the ordered levels of specificity being a grouping of subcategories of the same levels of specificity* (As disclosed in "Visualizing the Crowds at a Web Site" (herein referred to as "main reference"), the full dynamic visualization can be seen as a Java applet at <http://www.media.mit.edu/~nelson/research/crowdvis>. Via the link, two Web pages can be obtained (herein referred to as "secondary reference") to have a full illustration of the still image of the main reference. In the secondary reference, the map exploits the hierarchical nature of MIT Web Server. The web pages are organized into four topics: Software Agents, Synthetic Characters, Gesture and Narrative Language, and Epistemology and Learning. Each topic is placed in one quadrant of the display, and there are four kinds of pages in each topic: pages for the topic as a whole (shown in red), for a project (green), for a person (blue), or for a course (yellow). As seen, the visualization of MIT Web Server is an *instance of a mapping data structure for a web site, the hierarchical structure of MIT Web Server representing two or more categories, e.g., Software Agents, Synthetic Characters...*, *each of the categories divided into subcategories of ordered levels of specificity, e.g., each topic divided into four kinds of pages as the first level of specificity,*



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e.g., pages for topic, pages for a project..., each kind of page is a group of particular pages under that kind as the second level, *each of the ordered levels of specificity being a grouping of subcategories of the same levels of specificity*, e.g., the first level of specificity is *a grouping of four topics as subcategories at the same levels of specificity*);

*generating a graphical representation of said at least one instance of said mapping data structure, said graphical representation depicting the two or more categories and the subcategories such that the subcategories are graphically depicted within a corresponding category of the two or more categories* (As seen in the full dynamics visualization at page 2 as *a graphical representation of said at least one instance of said mapping data structure*, the web pages are organized into four topics: Software Agents, Synthetic Characters, Gesture and Narrative Language, and Epistemology and Learning. Each topic is placed in one quadrant of the display, and there are four kinds of pages in each topic: page for the topic as a whole (shown in red), for a project (green), for a person (blue), or for a course (yellow). As seen, the full dynamics visualization *depicting the two or more categories*, i.e., Software Agents and Synthetic Characters, *and the subcategories*, i.e., page for the topic as a whole (shown in red), for a project (green), for a person (blue), or for a course (yellow), *such that the subcategories are graphically depicted within a corresponding category of the two or more categories*, i.e., page for the topic as a whole (shown in red), for a project (green), for a person (blue), and for a course (yellow) are represented within Software Agents); and

*mapping information about people, activities, and social interactions at the web site onto said graphical representation* (the circles as in CROWD VISUALIZATION represent people near the documents they are currently visiting, VISUALIZATION, and popular groups of pages on the web site are visibly crowded with people jostling around as they move from page to

page, and seldom-visited portions of the site are identifiable by faded color, CROWD DYNAMICS).

Regarding claims 25-27, Minar teaches a computer system and program for executing the method of visualizing the crowds at a web site by:

*creating an instance of a mapping data structure for a given web site, the data structure representing two or more categories by dividing each of the categories into subcategories of ordered levels of specificity; dividing each of the ordered levels of specificity into a grouping of subcategories of the same levels of specificity* (As disclosed in "Visualizing the Crowds at a Web Site" (herein referred to as "main reference"), the full dynamic visualization can be seen as a Java applet at <http://www.media.mit.edu/~nelson/research/crowdvis>. Via the link, two Web pages can be obtained (herein referred to as "secondary reference") to have a full illustration of the still image of the main reference. In the secondary reference, the map exploits the hierarchical nature of MIT Web Server. The web pages are organized into four topics: Software Agents, Synthetic Characters, Gesture and Narrative Language, and Epistemology and Learning. Each topic is placed in one quadrant of the display, and there are four kinds of pages in each topic: pages for the topic as a whole (shown in red), for a project (green), for a person (blue), or for a course (yellow). As seen, the visualization of MIT Web Server is an *instance of a mapping data structure for a web site, the hierarchical structure of MIT Web Server representing two or more categories, e.g., Software Agents, Synthetic Characters... each of the categories divided into subcategories of ordered levels of specificity, e.g., each topic divided into four kinds of pages as the first level of specificity, e.g., pages for topic, pages for a project...*, each kind of page is a group of particular

pages under that kind as the second level, *each of the ordered levels of specificity being a grouping of subcategories of the same levels of specificity, e.g., the first level of specificity is a grouping of four topics as subcategories at the same levels of specificity*);

*displaying the subcategories and the grouping of subcategories by level of specificity in geometric pattern such that the subcategories are graphically depicted within a corresponding category of the two or more categories* (As discussed above, the full dynamic visualization *displaying the subcategories and the grouping of subcategories by level of specificity in a geometric pattern, e.g., four kinds of pages as subcategories: page for the topic as a whole (shown in red), for a project (green)... are grouped at each quadrant under a topic as level of specificity in a geometric pattern, and the purpose is to graphically depict the subcategories within a corresponding category of the two or more categories, i.e., page for the topic as a whole (shown in red), for a project (green), for a person (blue), and for a course (yellow) are represented within Software Agents*);

*mapping information about people, activities, and social interactions at the web site onto said visual, geometric pattern* (the circles as in CROWD VISUALIZATION represent people near the documents they are currently visiting, VISUALIZATION, and popular groups of pages on the web site are visibly crowded with people jostling around as they move from page to page, and seldom-visited portions of the site are identifiable by faded color, CROWD DYNAMICS).

Regarding claim 2, Minar and Carriere, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Minar further discloses *the data structure includes one or more sections, the sections being logical intersections of one of the categories with one of the levels of specificity* (e.g., /people/nelson as in SITE MAP).

Regarding claim 5, Minar teaches all the claim subject matters as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Minar further discloses *the categories include any one or more of the following: a product category, a service category, a category class, a category list, a product class, a list of products in a class, a product specification, a service class, a list of services, and a service specification* (SITE MAP).

Regarding claim 6, Minar teaches all the claim subject matters as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Minar further discloses *the levels of specificity include any one or more of the following: category class, category list, offering specification, product class, list of products in a class, product specification, service class, list of services, and a service specification* (SITE MAP).

Regarding to claim 24, Minar teaches all the claim subject matters as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Minar further discloses *the social information mapped in the data structure is served over one or more of the network connections for display of one or more visual districts on one or more clients* (INDIVIDUALS and CROWD VISUALIZATION).

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minar et al. [Visualizing the Crowds at a Web Site] as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Hazlehurst et al. [USP 6,289,353 B1].

Regarding claim 3, Minar teaches all the claim subject matters as discussed above with respect to claim 2, but does not explicitly teach *one or more subcategories have a degree of closeness relating the section to one or more other sections*. Hazlehurst teaches *one or more subcategories have a degree of closeness relating the section to one or more other sections* (Hazlehurst, FIG. 10A-B, Cols. 12-13). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Minar method by including the degree of closeness as taught by Hazlehurst in order to represent the data sets of major areas of interest in specific details representing by subcategories.

Regarding claim 4, Minar and Hazlehurst, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 3, Hazlehurst further discloses *the degree of closeness relates to any one or more of following: a physical closeness of location of physical items represented by the respective sections, a relational closeness between one or more users and one or more objects, a relational closeness between one or more users, a semantic closeness of descriptions of items represented by the respective sections, and a behavioral closeness of pattern of use* (Hazlehurst, FIG. 10A-B, Cols. 12-13).

**Claims 7-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minar et al. [Visualizing the Crowds at a Web Site] as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Nortel et al. [WebQuery: Searching and Visualizing the Web through Connectivity].**

Regarding claim 7, Minar teaches all the claim subject matters as discussed above with respect to claim 1, but does not explicitly disclose the step of *collecting*

*information about one or more nodes located on one or more of the districts.* Nortel teaches a method for searching and visualizing the Web, Nortel further discloses the step of *collecting information about one or more nodes located on one or more of the districts* (Nortel, pages 5-7). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Minar method by including the step of collecting information about one or more nodes as taught by Nortel in order to represent the data sets of major areas of interest in specific details representing by subcategories.

Regarding claim 8, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 7, Nortel further discloses *the nodes are differentiated by any one or more node functions* (Nortel, pages 5-6).

Regarding claim 9, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 8, Minar further discloses *the node functions include any one or more of the following: initiating a chat session, providing information, causing a user to be associated with a node location, providing access to sales information, providing access to a salesman, and changing a browser page to one that has information relating to the node* (Minar, INTRODUCTION).

Regarding claim 10, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 7, and the MIT Media Lab Web Site as disclosed by Minar is *one or more of the nodes is a landmark that marks a salient location on one or more of the districts.*

Regarding claim 11, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 10, and the MIT Media Lab Web Site as disclosed by Minar is *the salient location is fixed and associated with one of a plurality of business categories.*

Regarding claim 12, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 10, and the MIT Media Lab Web Site as disclosed by Minar is *the salient location can change in time and is associated with an activity.*

Regarding claim 13, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 12, Minar further discloses *the activity is one or more of the following: a current "hot spot", "a list of most popular pages in a computer section", a public chat, a sale, a special product offering, a special service offering, and a sales agent availability* (Minar, SITE MAP).

Regarding claim 14, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 10, Minar further discloses *the salient location is personally meaningful to the user* (Minar, CROWD VISUALIZATION).

Regarding claim 15, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 14, the MIT Media Lab Web

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Site as disclosed by Minar is *the salient location represents any one or more of the following: a user's buddy, a chat buddy, a private chat, a user's favorite spot, and a user with common interest.*

Regarding claim 16, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 7, and the claimed *the system comprising one or more paths, each path connecting two or more nodes* is an inherent feature of World Wide Web.

Regarding claim 17, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 16, and the claimed *the path links two or more of the nodes to associate connectivity relationships among the nodes* is an inherent feature of World Wide Web.

Regarding claim 18, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 16, and the claimed *a path is associated with one of the following: a user's path through one or more of the districts, a customer's path through one or more of the districts, a preferred path of a group of users through one or more of the districts, a preferred path of a group of users with common interests through one or more of the districts, and a preferred path of a group of users with complementary interests through one or more of the districts* is an inherent feature of World Wide Web.

Regarding claim 19, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 7, Nortel further discloses *one or*



*more node sets, each node set contain, ning one or more nodes clustered in nearby locations in one or more of the districts (Nortel, pages 3-5).*

Regarding claim 20, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 19, Nortel further discloses *a node set represent a relationship among two or more nodes located in one or more of the districts (Nortel, pages 3-5).*

Regarding claim 21, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 19, Nortel further discloses *where one or more of the node sets is associated with one of the following: a density of users gathered in one or more adjacent node locations, a set of node locations marking results of a search, a set of node locations related by a semantic attribute, a set of node locations visited by a group of users with common interests, a set of node locations visited by a group of users with complementary interests, and a crowd of users (Nortel, pages 3-5).*

Regarding claim 22, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 19, Nortel further discloses *one or more of the node sets has a node set function (Nortel, pages 3-5).*

Regarding claim 23, Minar and Nortel, in combination, teach all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claim 22, Minar further discloses *the node set function includes any one or more of the following: providing information about the set, changing a*

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*user's location to be associated with a node location in the set, and changing browser page to one that has information relating to a node in the set (Minar, SITE MAP).*

***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG Q. PHAM whose telephone number is 571-272-4040. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JEFFREY A. GAFFIN can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



HUNG Q PHAM  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2168

February 16, 2006



SHAHID ALAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER